

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

October 9, 2025

Mayor John B. Stephens and
City Council Representatives
Costa Mesa, CA

Dear Mayor Stephens and council members,

Ahead of Costa Mesa's next meeting on approaches to community cats, or unowned cats who live outdoors, Alley Cat Allies is reaching out to encourage legislation that will allow Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) in the city. **We strongly urge the implementation of a TNR program as the only humane and effective approach to community cats. Furthermore, we offer our expertise and resources in establishing TNR in the City of Costa Mesa.**

Alley Cat Allies is the leader of the global movement to protect cats and kittens. Through our innovative programs and fearless advocacy, we champion the humane treatment of all cats. We work toward a world where every cat is valued and protected, and every community has policies and programs to defend them.

Founded in 1990, Alley Cat Allies launched TNR into the mainstream in the United States. We regularly work with lawmakers, animal shelters, and the public to change attitudes and advance laws and policies that best serve the interests of cats.

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Is the Only Humane, Effective Approach

Through TNR, community cats are humanely trapped; brought to a veterinary clinic to be spayed or neutered, eartipped (the universal sign that a cat has been spayed or neutered through a TNR program), and vaccinated; and then returned to their original outdoor homes.

TNR is proven to stabilize community cat populations by stopping the cycle of reproduction; improve the cats' health and public health through vaccinations; and benefit animal control agencies and shelters by reducing cat intake and calls of concern. Today, communities in California and across the country have adopted TNR ordinances or policies, and thousands more worldwide are conducting grassroots, volunteer-led programs.

Recognizing that TNR programs do not always fit squarely within the four corners of existing legal structures, the American Bar Association, the largest association of legal professionals in the United States, took a position in 2017 urging state and local governments to interpret current laws and policies in a way that facilitates TNR. Therefore, it is critical that laws, policies, and interpretations are in place to permit TNR programs.

Please Support TNR

Advocates and organizations near Costa Mesa have already been practicing TNR to the benefit of cats and the community. This is the city's chance to improve its policy to engage and support the resources already available—and ultimately reduce intake of cats by animal control, address community concerns, and save cats' lives.

Alley Cat Allies strongly urges the adoption of a TNR program in Costa Mesa. We are eager to provide any other information that would be helpful and hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Outreach Team

Alley Cat Allies